

**Draft Minutes for Leith Central Community Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup>  
October, 2011 at MacDonald Road Library, 7.30-9.30pm**

**Attendance**

Stewart Blaik	Chair LCCC
John Hein	Vice-Chair LCCC
Roland Reid	Secretary LCCC
Jenny MacKenzie	Minute Secretary. Pilmeny Development Project
Annette O'Carroll	Convenor Planning sub-committee LCCC
Stan Eadie	Convenor Transport sub-committee LCCC
Jean Cuthbert	Volunteer Centre Edinburgh
Cllr Louise Lang	City Councillor Leith Walk (LibDem)
PC Lee Jack	Lothian and Borders Police
William Boyle	Resident Ferry Road,
Peter Mellors	Resident Regent Place
Ken O'Neill	Resident
Ann Stark	Friends of Hillside Crescent Association
Malcolm Chisholm	MSP North Edinburgh
Mark Lazarowicz	MP North Edinburgh
Julian Siann	LCCC
Martin Patrick	LCCC
Charlotte Bunting	Resident and Cyrenians
Amy Hutton	Resident and Cyrenians

**1.0 Introductions and Announcements.**

The Chair welcomed the guest and local residents attending the meeting. The Chair mentioned that at the last meeting members had indicated an interest in applying for Investors in Volunteers accreditation. Further enquiries had revealed that this benchmark programme, which is tailored to organizations that manage volunteers, is not suited to community councils (CCs). However a programme called Good to Great is more suited to committees such as CCs and Jean Cuthbert of Volunteer Centre Edinburgh has attended the meeting to make a short presentation about this programme.

**2.0 Apologies for absence**

Anne Munro	Treasurer LCCC
Harald Tobermann	Pilrig Residents' Association
Cllr Deidre Brock	City Councilor Leith Walk (SNP)
Eddie Dunlop	Port of Leith Housing Association.
PC Andrew Johnson	Lothian and Borders Police (relocated)
Charlotte Encombe	Resident and Greener Leith
Juan Garcia Navarro	LCCC

**3.0 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011.**

Approved by Julian Siann  
Seconded by Stan Eadie

#### **4. Good to Great presentation by Jean Cuthbert, Learning and Practice Officer of the Volunteer Centre, Edinburgh .**

Jean described the Good to Great programme which is a committee review programme that would be suitable for community councils, of which a pilot programme could be designed to suit an individual CC's needs. Topics for consideration could include: Effective decision making, developing a code of conduct for meetings, Communication, Team Building, Managing Differences and the Nolan Principles -- seven recognised benchmark standards suited to successful public life. They include Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership. Other topics include: How to do a CC health check and developing succession planning.

#### **5. Community Police Officer's Report from PC Lee Jack .**

**Shrubhill House:** Nothing to update no calls recently.

**Pilrig Park:** Homeless people have been reported sleeping in tents in the park. All tents and people have now gone.

**Hopetoun Crescent:** Still attracting members of the street drinking fraternity, high viz patrols being carried out in the area.

Two males responsible for a series of car crime and housebreakings have been arrested and sent to court. Both have been remanded in custody.

**Operation Arraign:** An alcohol test purchasing initiative has been carried out in off-licence premises and will continue.

**Operation Backstage** is a prostitute prevention initiative in which the areas around Salamander Street will be subject to high viz patrols.

Calls in relation to youths continue to be low.

#### **6.0 Matters Arising.**

##### **Boundary Square:**

The majority of the hard landscaping such as paving, bin stores and metal fencing has been completed. Only some planting and additions to the open space in front of the social centre needs to be finished. Contractors expect to have removed from the site towards the end of October. Port of Leith Housing Association will undertake an informal handover to the community on November 4<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 3pm at Pilmeny Social Centre. In addition residents and the steering group will be invited to a meeting for 4pm on 15<sup>th</sup> November at the same address to consider future maintenance and management of the square.

##### **107A Ferry Road.**

A case management meeting regarding the management of the Cyrenian site, which provides support for 13 young people who have experienced homelessness or mental health issues, was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September. This was attended by council officials, Cyrenian representatives, police and a member of owner of the site, Hillcrest Housing Association. A 14 point action plan has been drawn up and the property will be monitored by the Council and Police for a three month period. There have been no complaints recorded about disturbance around the site within the last four weeks. Some discussion ensued, after which the Chair noted that sound-proofing is not mentioned in the action plan. He encouraged residents who had any complaints to report them without fail, ensuring that they record the incident number which is allocated to the call. PC Lee Jack emphasized that he is the dedicated police officer

assigned to the case. Cllr Lang, who is a member of the Licensing Committee confirmed that licences are renewed annually and that any case about which more than one or two complaints are received, would be monitored and reviewed carefully.

**Website development:**

The development of the new website is still in progress.

**Flooding outside the Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street**

The secretary has written to Scottish Water, with the letter copied to MSPs Sarah Boyack and Malcolm Chisholm, seeking a solution to the long-standing flooding before the onset of winter. Harold Tobermann further raises the following queries: Is the one gully serving the whole block outside the building sufficient to cope with drain away needs of the building?

The undulating gutter contributes to the poor water flow – could this not be repaired? Can the one gully be cleared of leaves and obstructions on a more regular schedule? Are physical measures possible to prevent parking against the kerb, which also contributes to obstruction of water flow to the gully?

When can blister drainage design problems on the built out pavement at both ends of the building be fixed? Cllr Lang will seek some answers to these queries.

**Water of Leith Flood Prevention Works:**

Julian Siann reported that residents who live near to the Redbraes Weir would like assurance that the contractors working on the Flood Prevention Works have the back-up of water that is resulting from the works under control. Julian has received no response from the council to his requests for an acknowledgement of the problem.

Cllr Lang requested updated information to enable further enquiries

**Gaelic Education and Bonnington Primary School:**

A letter to the secretary from Director of Children and Families Gillian Tee confirms that her report on the outcome of the consultation on the future development of Gaelic Medium Education at nursery and primary level will go to the Council meeting on Thursday, 27 October. The report is available online

at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/primarygaelic](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/primarygaelic)

In the letter she noted: “I am pleased to advise that over the last few weeks we have had very constructive discussions with the Scottish Government and now have a funding package in place that allows me to recommend to Elected Members that they approve the establishment of a dedicated Gaelic nursery and primary school in the former Bonnington Primary School.

“If this recommendation is approved by Elected Members, Scottish Ministers will then have six weeks to decide whether to call-in the decision for further consideration” .

The letter concludes: “I would like to reassure you that, whatever decision is made in October, there will still be time to carry out the necessary works in time for the start of school session in August 2013. We are also confident that, based on current projections, alternative arrangements can be put in place at Tollcross Primary School to ensure that children who wish to start P1 at the Gaelic Medium Unit in 2012 can have a place at the school and also those children in the catchment area for the mainstream school.”

## 7. Officers and Councillor's Reports

**MSP Malcolm Chisholm** noted that consideration may be given to the Forth Ports Biomass Plant application in early December.

### **Planning**

Planning convenor Annette O'Carroll reported on a planning sub-committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Updates on current applications included reference to **11/02789/PND** that refers to prior approval for demolition at 2-8, 3-11, 16, 17, 19. West Bowling Green Street and 26 Anderson Place. The committee objected to this on the grounds that it was undesirable to demolish the existing buildings while the re-development of the site was uncertain.

A lot of applications have been submitted in recent times, totaling more than 1,000 housing units, and none have been built.

Proposed development of the West Bowling Green site includes residential development (114 units) with ground floor commercial space, associated parking, landscaping and accesses. A public meeting about the proposed development was scheduled at Leith Town Hall for 13<sup>th</sup> October but was cancelled without warning.

**Shrubhill Tram Depot, Dryden Place:** The committee approved that Annette should apply to have the building added to the Building at Risk Register.

Annette also provided a summary of a meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October of the Leith Business Association. (LBA)

- Leith seems to be eligible for the CEC/EWH 'Showcase your Shopfront' initiative, which provides grants for restoring shopfronts - or introducing high quality modern shopfronts, of which Smith Scott Mullan was featured in the introductory leaflet. Copies of the leaflet were made available.
- Sarah Woodford, the Leith and Portobello Town Centre Co-ordinator is instituting a competition 'Dress your Shopfront' with a panel of judges and up to £3,000 off the business rates as an incentive/prize. More details of this will be available at their next meeting.
- The LBA are also trying to start their own shopfront competitive initiative, possibly as part of next year's Leith Festival. They could be looking for donated prizes. (Consideration could be given for a contribution from LCCC).

Leith Walk reinstatement is of general concern and shop owners are finding communication with CEC difficult. There will be a meeting of the Transport and Environment committee of CEC on the 29th November.

It has been suggested that a meeting of groups such as the Leith Business Association, both Leith Central and Leith Links Community Councils, Pilrig Residents' Association, and Greener Leith could be called to discuss the present state and future prospects of the Leith Walk, with speakers invited from the Council.

The next meetings of the planning sub-committee will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## 8. Open Forum.

- The Good to Great programme can be considered during the coming month and

- views expressed at the next meeting.
- Stan Eadie is the Chair of the new Leith Decides programme.

**9. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011.